Appendix E

Documentation of historic and recent changes to flooding and water quality conditions by longtime resident of Elk River, Kristi Wrigley. As presented to the ISRP May 5, 2003.

KRISTI WRIGLEY
2550 WRIGLEY RD.
EUREKA CA. 95503

RAIN YEAR	TOTAL RAINFALL	
1970	42.75	
71	57.65	
72	53.90	
73	43.80	
74	67.30	
75	51.65	
76	43.60	
77	24.10	← LOWEST
78	52.65	
79	36.55	
1980	53.15	
81	37.70	
82	67.55	
83	80.45	← HIGHEST
84	67.35	
85	46.65	
86	54.60	
87	40.30	
88	39.50	
89	35.85	
1990	35.85	
91	33.10	
92	33.-	
93	56.75	
94	39.45	
95	51.78	Eureka
96	51.33	R.K. (Ralph Kraus)
97	53.53	R.K.
98	62.05	R.K.
99	61.5	(57.1 R.K.)
2000	42.6	
01	25.38	
02	41.75	
03	52.65	AND STILL COUNTING

1 span (purely within the time span a THP affects the lands!) and the downstream water users who have been dependant on above ground water in ELK RVR for over 100 yrs.

NOTE

AS YOU CAN SEE WE HAVE A VARIABLE WIDE RANGE OF RAINFALL (24 TO 80 inches/year)
WE KNOW TWO THINGS FOR SURE.
1. THERE WILL BE SOME LESS RAINY YEARS
2. THERE WILL BE SOME MORE RAINY YEARS

FLOOD DATES THIS RAIN YEAR 2002/2003

1. 12-16-02: FLOODED 2' plus OVER ELK RIVER RD.
   NOT PASSABLE FOR 20 HRS
   2.5" RAIN : UNTO ORCHARD FENCE)

2. 12-20-02: FLOODED OUER ELK RIVER RD.
   2' : UP FOR 12 HRS.
   2.0" RAIN (INTO ORCHARD FENCES)

3 12-27/28-02: HIGHEST FLOOD EVER AT APPLEFARM
   . OVER 1.0 FT HIGHER THAN DEC 9. 1996
   OVER 2.0 FT HIGHER THAN MAR. 1975
   OVER 2 1/2 FT HIGHER THAN DEC 1964
   (5.2" RAIN)
   COMPARISON OF FLOOD HEIGHTS IN RED HSE AT
   CONFLUENCE OF NORTH & SOUTH FORKS OF ELK RIVER
   (ABOUT 1 MILE DOWNSTREAM OF APPLE FARM)
   1964 - 2" IN HOUSE → Logging road put in may adgment flood Ht.
   1975 - 13" IN HOUSE
   1995 - 16" IN HOUSE
   1996 - 19" IN HOUSE } Same Conditions
   2002 - 23" IN HOUSE
   OVER THE TOP OF THE ORCHARD FENCES!

4. 12-31-02: 2' plus OVER RD. - ELK RIVER RD & WRIGLEY
   (2.5" RAIN) INTO ORCHARD FENCES

5. 2-19-03 2' plus OVER ELK RIVER RD.
   ALSO OVER WRIGLEY RD.
   (1.4" RAIN) INTO ORCHARD FENCES

6. 3-26-03: 1' OVER ELK RIVER RD. SMALL FLOOD
   (1.65" RAIN)

7. 4-13-03: ABOUT 2' OVER ELK RIVER RD. (1.15" RAIN

INTO ORCHARD FENCES 8 4-25-03: 2' plus OVER ELK RIVER RD (1.35" RAIN)
(OVER WRIGLEY RD but could go thru that part)

HISTORICAL FLOODING;

IN 1940 & 1950 w/ advent of the CHAIN SAW ELK RIVER WAS more THOROUGHLY LOGGED THAN IT HAD BEEN BEFORE. BUT IT WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR CUT NOR WAS IT BURNED AS OLD PHOTOS OF OTHER AREAS SHOW.
IN THIS ROUND OF LOGGING MANY OF THE SMALL SIDE CREEKS LIKE LAKE McWHINNEY & BRIDGES CRK. ON NORTH FORK ELK RIVER were damaged BY HEAVY RAINS AFTER HEAVY LOGGING.
1955 FLOOD VERY BAD IN THE ELK RIVER with QUITE A LOT OF FLOODING IN 1950's.
LATE 1950 - THRU 1980; FLOODING GENERALLY DECREASE

Feb. 14th 1959 we had 5" rain in 24 hrs but it did not go into the Red. Hse.
Dec. 2002 5.2" RAIN resulted in 23" of water in RED HSE
In early 1980's there was 67-80" rainfall - floodwater threatened the Red Hse only once.
FLOODING IN THE ORCHARD - WITHIN FENCED AREA WAS VERY RARE - MAYBE 2 TIMES IN 10 YEARS
During this RECOVERY PERIOD OLD PACIFIC LUMBER RUN BY THE MURPHY FAMILY LOGGED 75-150 acres a year with almost No clear cuts. & definitly NO WINTER LOGGING.

PRACTICAL COMMENT ON THE HCP AS A MEANS OF RECOVERING W.Q. IN ELK RIVER.

Under the HCP guidelines as implimented by MAXXAM / Pacific Lumber none of the historical beneficial uses of ELK RIVER will be recovered in a timely manner.

NOTE: IT took nearly 40 yrs to moderately improve from the logging of the 1940's with the company logging around 100 acres a year, mostly not using clearcuts.
Maxxam / PL has most recently been logging at the rate of 600 clear cut acres a year. This is 4 to 8 times the rate of logging that was being done when we experienced a moderate improvement in watershed conditions. Because the 600 acres is clear cut equivalents it could easily be more than 600 acres. The watershed is now at a higher level of harm than at any time. Iso even at the 75 to 150 acres logged a year level it would take more than 40 yrs to recover. Half that amount seems maximum to me for any kind of timely recovery to occur.
The present level of logging has shown to exacerbate flooding. Water quality is not noticeably improving. The HCP would allow even more logging than is presently being done. I cannot see how it could possibly be used to recover or protect any reasonable water quality levels.

Historical Fishing

Outstanding till mid 1940's then declined rapidly thru early 1950's. especially in the Class 2 side creeks flowing into ELK RIVER like Lake, McWhinney's Bridges Crk on the N.F. ELK RIVER.

Fishing was generally poor thru the 1960's but by the mid to late 1980's to about 1990 it had greatly improved. More and larger fish, we could also hear the salmon coming up the river in greater no. & some were spawning around upriver side of farm.

But by 1996 that was totally destroyed — all the deep pools 6-8 feet deep were filled with fine silt, all the gravel on the river bottom was buried in mud & all of the riffles between the pools were gone. The river was a mud drenched mess.

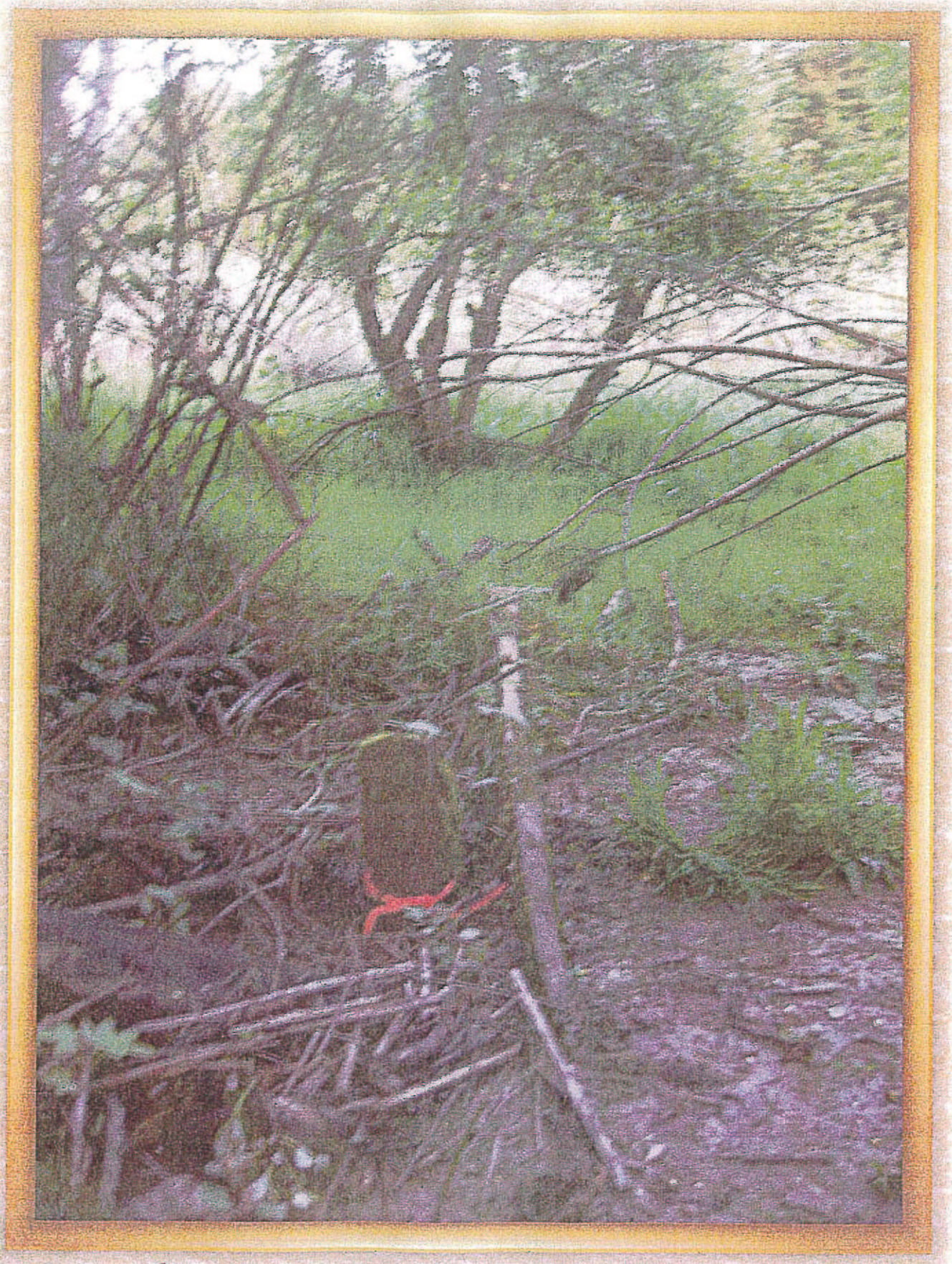
Historical Water Quality

1950 through 1980's
Water in ELK RIVER would clear enough to be pumpable for domestic & ag. use in 3-5 day
(pumpable Ag. use = Below 40 ntu)
pumpable Domestic = Below 20 ntus)

1990-1996: WATER QUALITY
Completely deteriorated after over 65% of the 19 sq. mi. watershed above the farm was logged on.
First real rain of 1995 Rain season was Nov. 15th 1995, Water in river was not pumpable till May 15th 1996!

1990-1996: MAXXAM LOGGED
500-1000 ACRES a year in the watershed above the farm
They logged straight thru the winters of '94/95 ; '95/96
Both quite rainy winters.

RESULT WAS ELK RIVER IS NOW A
1.) 303 d Sediment Impaired Stream (WATER QUALITY LISTING)
2.) "SIGNIFICANTLY ADVERSELY AFFECTED" WATERSHED BY CALIF. DEPT. FORESTRY
Water too muddy in winter & disgusting in summer due to slime, moss & duckweed.

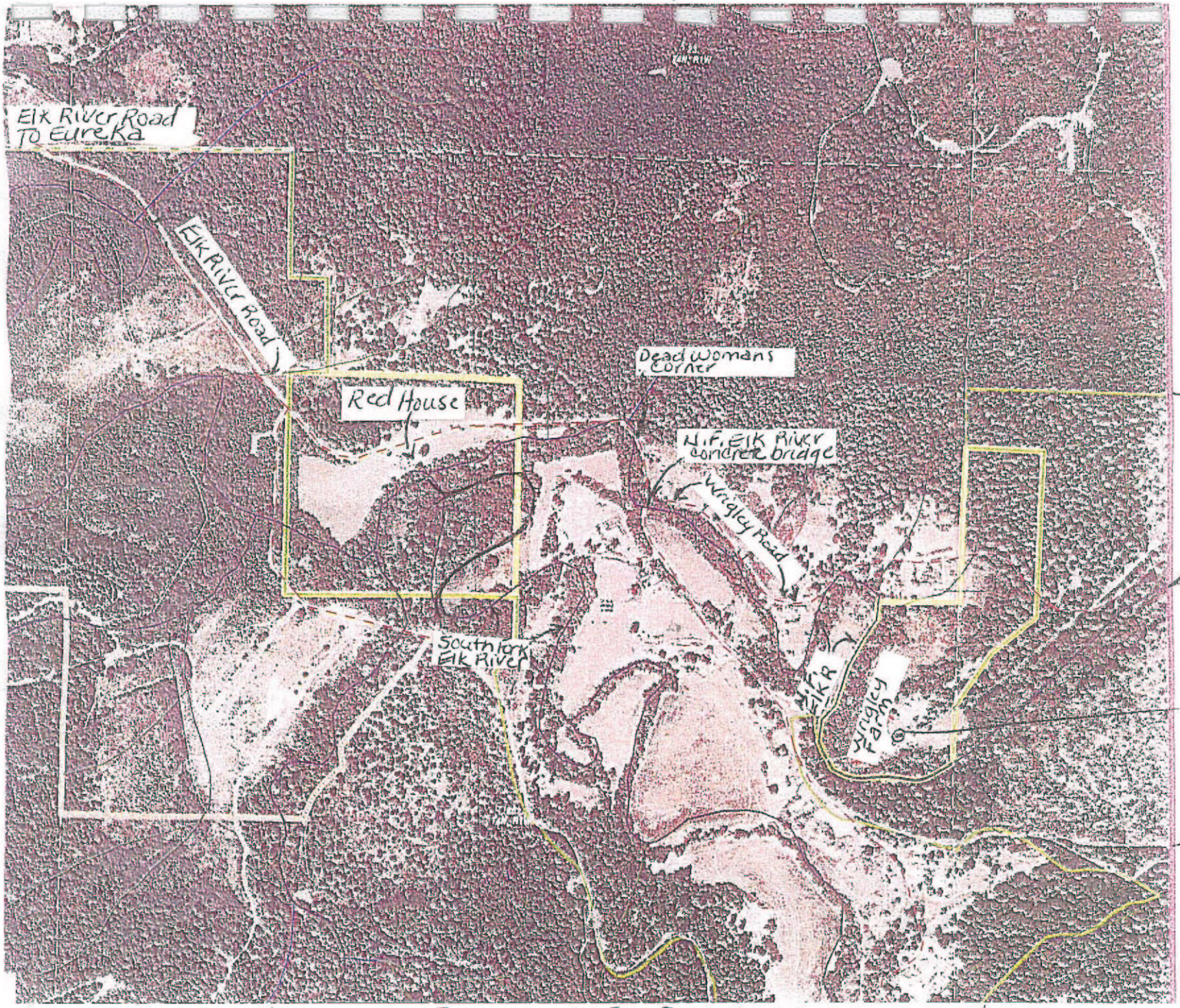


Wrigley Farm
Downstream side

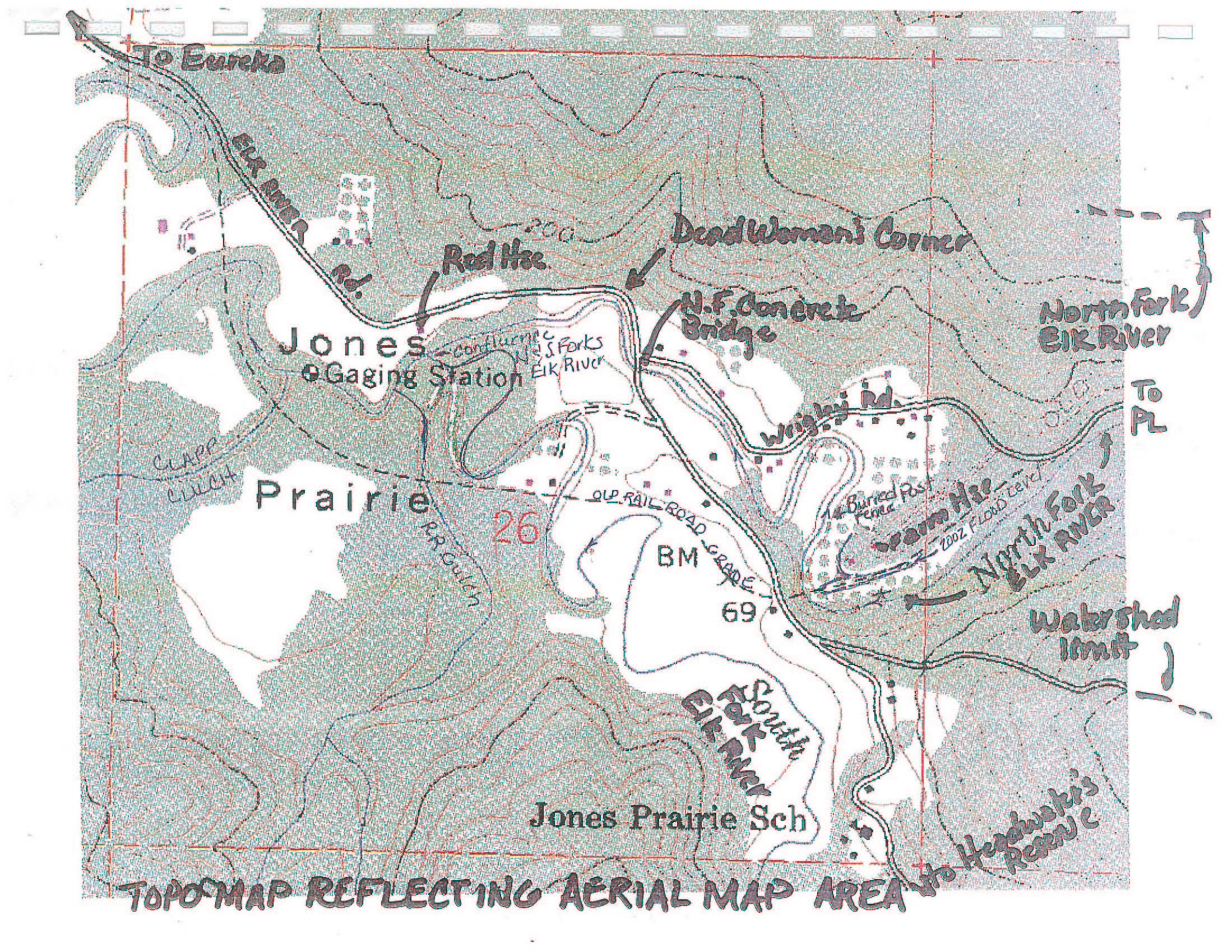
5/4/2003 8:15:28 PM

Buried fence post (3' of silt) & buried tree trunk (2½' silt)

Staff plates Wrigley farm
Heavy silt deposits 2002 Dec.



AERIAL PHOTO SHOWING AREA IN UPPER ELK RIVER WATERSHED BELOW MAXXAM/PACIFIC LUMBER LANDS


To Eureka
Elk River Rd.
Red Hse.
Dead Woman's Corner
N.F. Conerck Bridge
North Fork ELK River
To PL
Jones
Gaging Station
confluence N & S Forks ELK River
Wright Rd.
CLAPP GULCH
Prairie
OLD RAIL ROAD GRADE
26
RR Gulch
BM
69
Buried Post Fence
Barn Hse
2002 Flood Level
North Fork ELK RIVER
Watershed limit
South Fork ELK RIVER
Jones Prairie Sch
to Headwaters Reserve
TOPO MAP REFLECTING AERIAL MAP AREA

1-11-2000 Flood on less than 2" rain in 24 hrs.

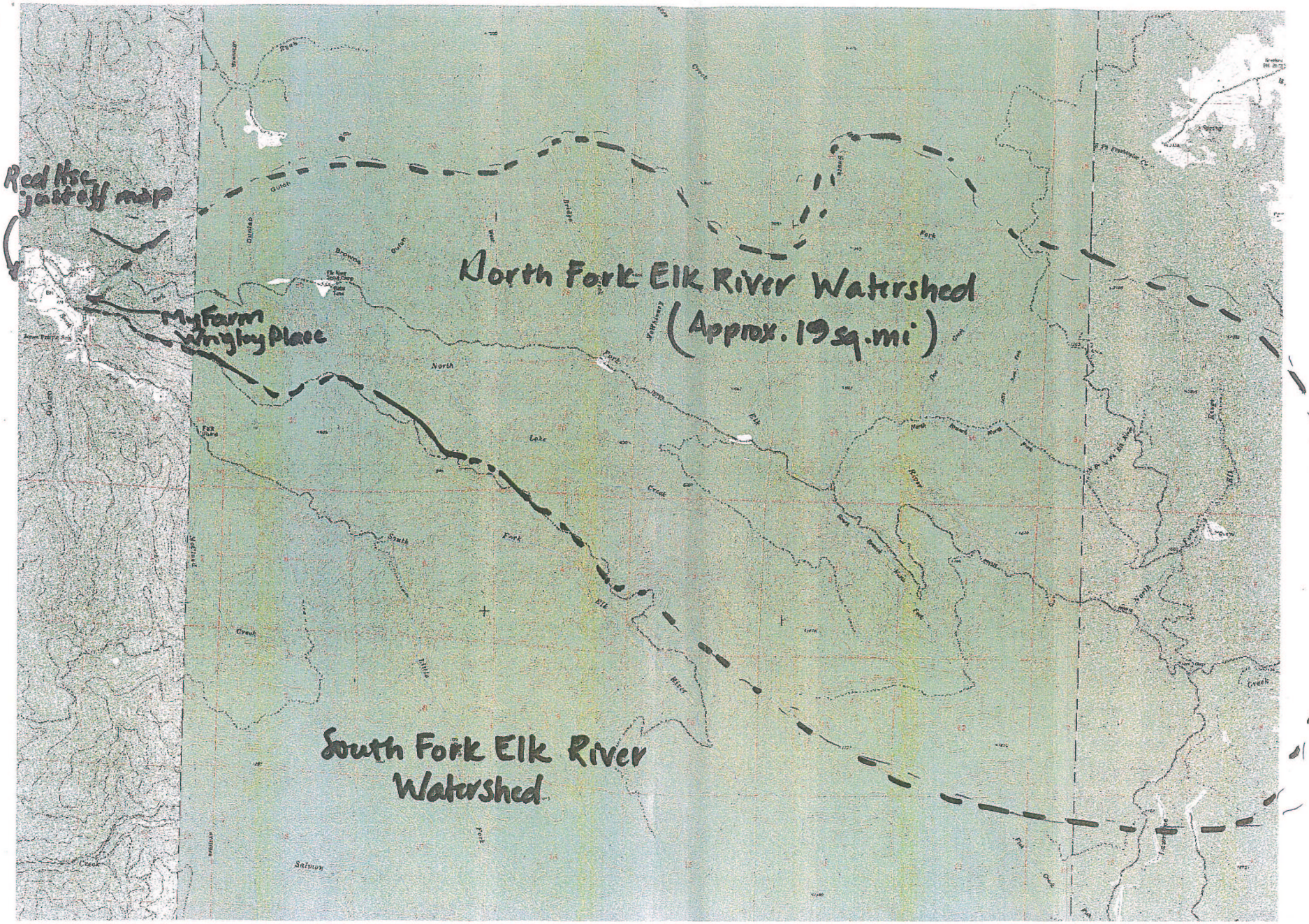
North Fork Elk River
Concrete bridge.

Standing in Wrigley Rd taking photos
Looking at Elk River Rd. at intersection with
Wrigley Rd.

to Eureka →

Dead woman's corner
in background.

Picture taken 12-9-96 - I am standing
[illegible] the house - approx 300' from N.F Elk River.


Red line justaff map
My Farm
Wrigley Place
North Fork Elk River Watershed
(Approx. 19 sq. mi)
South Fork Elk River
Watershed

Farmers set the standard for water-quality protection

By Tony Francois and John Hewitt
California Farm Bureau Federation

Much has been said recently about water quality and agriculture, and the current regulatory actions being considered by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board. While the heart of the storm may be focused on the Central Valley right now, the regional water boards in most of California's major agricultural areas are initiating various types of programs to more formally regulate the quality of waters discharged from irrigated farms and pastures.

For the past 30 years, water-quality regulators and activists have been focused on reducing the impacts of various municipal and industrial waste discharges on water quality. These efforts have been so successful that many view agriculture as now being the leading source of certain types of water-quality impairments, and the focus of regulators and radical environmentalists has been on farmers more than ever.

A point that has been overlooked to a large degree in the recent debates is that the scope of actual water-quality impairments from farming is not well understood. This question is the subject of current studies that are seeking a better understanding of the relationship between irrigation return flows and water quality. In order to effectively regulate, it will be necessary for the boards to have accurate and useful scientific information about the impacts of irrigation return flows on water quality. It will also continue to be necessary for the boards to develop their understanding of farming practices and limitations, so that whatever the ultimate stable regulatory solution is, it works and reflects the realities of farming.

Formal water-quality regulation by the regional water boards is an innovation that comes at a time when new air-quality regulation, soaring workers' compensation insurance rates, poor economic conditions, and inequitable competition from foreign producers (who face none of these challenges) all vie for the distinction of being agriculture's current worst enemy.

But what is not new is the basic premise that among neighbors on a stream, the upstream neighbor has a basic responsibility not to impair the downstream neighbor's water use through nuisance or trespass. And while the regional water boards may be new to the scene, farmers are familiar with a host of water-quality protections overseen by county agricultural commissioners related to use of pesticides, and with the use of best management practices as a result of educational outreach by University of California Cooperative Extension, resource conservation districts, pest control advisors, local collaborative watershed efforts and many other sources.

County Farm Bureaus throughout the state have been instrumental in providing critical information to the regional boards as they embark into the unfamiliar waters of agricultural regulation. California Farm Bureau has been tracking and supporting these county activities and has been actively involved in the proceedings in the Central Valley dealing with how irrigation return-flow quality will be regulated. While the broad outlines of a regulatory program appear to be in place in some areas of the state, quite a bit of give and take remains before the final details are in place. Ultimately, these regulatory programs need to be stable solutions that are based upon the unique aspects of the agricultural community and protect the environment without involving unnecessary or non-beneficial cost, bureaucracy and busywork.

As farmers and ranchers look to the future, we must continue to take a proactive approach to protecting water quality.

Regardless of the current controversy over the Central Valley board's approach to this problem, it is critical for farmers to focus on the long-term and fundamental issues of water quality. As the state's truest and most dedicated conservationists, protecting the beneficial uses of the state's waters is an important priority for farmers. Experience has shown that when faced with specific water-quality challenges, farmers and agricultural organizations are problem solvers who get the job done. Examples include the Central Valley's Rice Pesticide and Grasslands Bypass programs, the statewide Dairy Quality Assurance Program and the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus.

It is unfortunate that much of the public discussion about agricultural water quality has taken place with the assumption that farmers do nothing to protect water quality because formal regulations and permitting systems have not been in the place in the past. With that assumption, the cry of radical environmentalists and overzealous legislators has been that it is time for farmers and ranchers to finally submit to regulatory control of irrigation-water discharges.

This assumption is quite false, however. Farmers have not sat idly by and ignored the impacts of farming operations on water quality. Quite the contrary, it has proven a challenging task to catalog all of the various locally driven and effective voluntary efforts that farmers have undertaken to protect water quality. As we move forward, a critical task for farmers will be to more carefully document what they are already doing, individually and in coordination with others, so that we can better educate legislators, regulators, journalists and the public about how proactive farmers have been in protecting water quality.

As farmers and ranchers look to the future, we must continue to take a proactive approach to protecting water quality. We may expect to have disagreements over what is necessary to protect particular downstream water users, and these questions will require local understanding and resolution. Funding and sound scientific data and analysis will be necessary to answer these questions, and the questions will not be successfully answered if it is simply assumed that farmers will pay the freight for unnecessary monitoring and reporting. In the end, we will have to help answer these questions at the scientific level to avoid over-protective and prohibitively costly regulations.

But it must be beyond doubt that farmers and ranchers will continue to set the standard in protecting their downstream neighbors from any actual unreasonable impacts from agricultural practices. As the regulatory process moves forward, lack of confidence in this proposition by regulators or significant numbers of legislators will result in more and more unworkable and unproductive regulation.

(Tony Francois is CFBF director of water resources policy and John Hewitt is CFBF watershed coordinator.)

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